

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 482

By Towns

A RESOLUTION to commend Blake Pannell Graves for exemplary service as a legislative intern.

WHEREAS, each legislative session this body is pleased to recognize certain persons who have committed themselves, through their adroit service, to the betterment of the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, Blake Pannell Graves is one such individual who has distinguished himself in his role as a legislative intern for Representative Joe Towns; Blake's work has resulted in innumerable benefits for the legislators he assisted and the General Assembly as a whole; and

WHEREAS, he admirably organized the annual Easter Festival held in Memphis by Representative Towns, and his help on Representative Winningham's K-12 sub-committee was invaluable; and

WHEREAS, attending college on a full scholarship from the University of Memphis School of Music, Mr. Graves is highly regarded by his peers; he has achieved academic success while majoring in political science and is an honored and decorated tuba player with the Symphonic Band, the University of Memphis Mighty Sound of the South Marching Band, and the Pep Band; and

WHEREAS, his musical abilities were recognized with his inclusion into the lofty ranks of All-State in his senior year of high school and his designation as the drum major for the University of Memphis Marching Band; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in the campus community and the greater Memphis area, Mr. Graves has dedicated his singular skills to several student and civic organizations, including the Student Activities Council, the College Republicans, and volunteering for Hands on Memphis and Volunteer Memphis; and

WHEREAS, since beginning his journey down the pre-law track, he has excelled in the study of politics while participating in such programs as the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, where he was nominated by the Speaker to be the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, and the Tennessee Legislative Internship Program; and

WHEREAS, eager to familiarize himself with the characteristics and complexities of Tennessee state government and to further his studies, Blake Pannell Graves brought his many abilities and singular expertise to Capitol Hill for the 2009 session of the One Hundred Sixth General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 2009 legislative session, Mr. Graves has surpassed all criteria that define a devoted and conscientious legislative intern; always impeccably dressed, his fellow interns voted him “Best Dressed Intern” in the 2009 class; and

WHEREAS, his commendable record of service to this State is a great source of pride for his parents, Kathy Diane Pannell-East and Steven Webb Graves, and his siblings, Glenda Pannell, Jennifer Graves-Galusha, Katie East, Randi East, and Kelsi East; and

WHEREAS, Blake Pannell Graves has performed his many duties with extraordinary insight and rare decorum; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Blake Pannell Graves for outstanding service as a legislative intern for Representative Joe Towns and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.